

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 08752 021844Z

71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2956

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, SOPN, PINS, BL

SUBJ: PROTEST STRIKE OVER SHOOTING OF COCHABAMBA JOURNALIST

1. THE BOLIVIAN NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE PRESS
SUSPENDED ACTIVITIES FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS STARTING
NOVEMBER 1, 1976 IN PROTEST OVER THE FATAL SHOOTING
OF COCHABAMBA JOURNALIST EMILRO MENDIOLA GALARZA.
NO BOLIVIAN NEWSPAPERS WERE PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2
NOR WERE MOST RADIO STATIONS BROADCASTING.

2. MENDIOLA WAS SHOT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 BY AN AGENT
OF THE DID (DIRECCION DEPARTAMENTAL DE INVESTIGACION,
A SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION). FOR REASONS AS YET UNDETERMINED, THE
DID OFFICIAL RODOLFO GUTIERREZ ARCE APPROACHED AND
SHOT MENDIOLA ON A STREET CORNER IN COCHABAMBA ABOUT
9:45 P.. OCTOBER 29. UNOFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTED
THAT GUTIERREZ WAS DRUNK. SHORTLY THEREAFTER
GUTIERREZ WAS APPREHENDED BY A NATIONAL GUARD
RADIO PATROL UNIT AND JAILED. DEPARTMENTAL
PREFECT MILIVOY ETEROVIC ANNOUNCED THAT GUTIERREZ
WOULD BE FORMALLY CHARGED NOVEMBER 1.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 08752 021844Z

3. COMMENT: THE NEWSPAPER PROTEST STRIKE
REFLECTED THE ANGER AND SHOCK OF THE BOLIVIAN
PRESS. GOB OFFICIALS HAVE LAMENTED MENDIOLA'S
DEATH BUT POSTPONED COMMENTS PENDING PROMISED
FULL INVESTIGATION. TO EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, GOB
OFFICIALS DID NOT REPEAT NOT CRITICIZE THE
STRIKE. TWO SEPARATE AND APPARENTLY UNRELATED
INCIDENTS OF ALLEGED BRUTALITY BY POLICE IN
SANTA CRUZ AND A MILITARY OFFICER IN LA PAZ
ADD AN UNPLEASANT AMBIANCE TO MENDIOLA'S MURDER.

END COMMENT.
STEDMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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